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April 26, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Gerstein Centre is pleased to hear that PARC has put forward a proposal to create 29 Supported Housing Units at 194 Dowling (also known as 1495 Queen St. West). As a community mental health crisis facility, we have seen the benefits that well run affordable housing can have for individuals with mental health issues. We also see the negative impact that poorly run, substandard housing can have.

194 Dowling was one of those rundown buildings, in which several of our clients lived. When, in September of 1998, a tragic fire destroyed the building, Gerstein Centre worked with PARC to immediately house several of the tenants while other permanent housing was found.

We have worked with PARC on several joint projects and their vision and ability to implement that vision in partnership with their members and the community is exemplary. We support their plan for developing supportive housing at 194 Dowling and know that their dedication and experience will turn a derelict building into a real home for many of the City's homeless.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Quinn
Executive Director
Gerstein Crisis Centre